

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A wet-gas desulfurizing apparatus which removes oxides of sulfur from combustion exhaust gas by scrubbing the combustion exhaust gas with an absorption liquid which contains an alkali, said apparatus comprising:

a branch pipe for circulating the absorption liquid, said branch pipe extending into a collection tank through a wall of said collection tank and having a discharge end, which discharges the circulating absorption liquid into the absorption liquid in the collection tank, and an internal diameter D; and

~~an air-blown pipe for injecting air into said branch pipe, said air-blown pipe having an end inserted into said branch pipe at an insertion point located between 3D and 10D from the discharge end of said branch pipe.~~  
wherein said air-blown pipe is inserted into said branch pipe so that a central axis of said air-blown pipe meets with a central axis of said branch pipe at an angle, and wherein an end of said air-blown pipe which opens in said branch pipe is configured as a semicircular trough facing downstream towards the collection tank, and an insertion point of said air-blown pipe into said branch pipe is located between 3D and 10D from the discharge end of said branch pipe.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Amended) A wet-gas desulfurizing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said end of said air-blown pipe inserted in said branch pipe has an internal diameter of about 0.4D to 0.7D.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)